

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 20, 22, 23 and 33 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to the specification. In addition, the abstract has been replaced to better set forth the technical aspects of Applicant's invention. In the claims, editorial changes have been made to the independent claims and selected dependent claims.

Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Sheets of Drawings, with Figures 1A, 1B, 2, 7A, 7B and 8-10 labelled as "PRIOR ART," as required by the Examiner. Approval of the replacement sheets of drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 12-14, 20, 22-24, 29-31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Nakamura '925. In addition, the remaining dependent claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Nakamura in view of Nikai '971 (Claims 9 and 32), Preston '369 (Claims 15-17, 21, 25 and 26), Natori '597 (Claims 18, 19, 27 and 28) or Millward '366 (Claims 10, 11, 37, 38, 40 and 41). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to an image display apparatus comprising an image signal generating unit for generating an image signal and an image display element for displaying an image on a screen according to the image signal inputted from the image signal generating unit. As claimed, when the screen is divided into a portion in which the image is to be displayed and a dark display portion in which no image is to be displayed, a non-dark display is performed in the dark display portion for a very short time period from a start time display control until a start time of a process for terminating the display control.

Claim 20 relates to an image display apparatus comprising an image signal generating unit and an image display element as in Claim 1. In Claim 20, the screen is divided into a portion in which gradation display is to be performed and a bright display portion in which the gradation display is not to be performed, and bright display is continuously performed while dark display is performed for a very short time period in the bright display portion from a start time of display control until a start time of a process for terminating the display control.

Claim 22 relates to a method of driving an image display apparatus that includes the steps of displaying a multi-level gradation image in a predetermined area of a screen where a multi-level gradation image is to be displayed and performing dark display in another predetermined area of the screen where a multi-level gradation image is not to be displayed. In addition, a non-dark display is performed in the other predetermined area for a moment from a start time of display control to a start time of a process for terminating the display control.

Claim 23 relates to an image display apparatus comprising an image signal generating unit for generating an image signal and an image display element for displaying images on the screen by performing bright display and dark display according to the image signal inputted. The screen is divided into an effective image area in which various images are to be displayed and a non-effective image area in which no effective image is to be displayed. Dark display is continuously performed while bright display is performed for a very short time period in the non-effective image area.

Finally, Claim 33 relates to a method of driving an image display apparatus that displays images on a screen by performing bright display and dark display according to an image signal that is generated by an image signal generating unit and is inputted into an image display element. The method comprises the steps of dividing the screen into an effective image

area in which various images are to be displayed and a non-effective image area in which no effective image is to be displayed. As recited, dark display is continuously performed while bright display is performed for a very short time period in the non-effective image area.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance and long lasting image display apparatus can be provided.

The primary citation to Nakamura relates to an image display capable of receiving more than one video signal. As shown in Figure 1, video signals 8a and 8b are provided for driving display sections 2a and 2b, of different aspect ratios. As an example, Nakamura can display an image (provided by video signals 8a) with an aspect ratio 4:3 on display section 2a and an image based on the other video signal 8b on the display section 2b.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Nakamura is not understood to teach or suggest providing an image display apparatus or a method of driving an image display apparatus as set forth in Applicant's claimed invention. For example, in Claim 1 a non-dark display is performed in the dark display portion of the screen. Nakamura is not read to teach or suggest providing a screen with a dark display portion and performing a non-dark display in that portion.

With respect to the other independent claims, Nakamura is also not understood to teach or suggest, among other features, continuously performing bright display while dark display is performed for a very short time period in a bright display portion of the screen in which gradation display is not to be performed as in Claim 20, performing non-dark display in a predetermined area of the screen where a multi-level gradation image is not be displayed as in Claim 22, or continuously performing dark display while bright display is performed for a very short time period in a non-effective image area of the screen as in Claim 23. Nakamura also fails

to continuously perform dark display while performing bright display for a very short time period in a non-effective image area as set forth in Claim 33. As understood, sampling clocks of clock generating circuits 13a and 13b can be adjusted in Nakamura to display only a desired range of a video.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Nakamura fails to render obvious Applicant's claimed invention. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-8, 12-14, 20, 22-24, 29-31 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

The secondary citations fail to compensate for the deficiencies in Nakamura as discussed above. Nakai relates to a picture display region discriminating apparatus and was cited for its teaching of performing a non-dark display for a signal corresponding to a low gradation. Preston relates to a holographic display system and was cited for its teaching of an image display element being a spatial modulation element that uses a liquid crystal. Natori relates a plane display unit and was cited for its teaching of an LED. Millward relates to a spatial light modulator and was cited for its teaching of a non-dark display that is cyclically performed at a frequency of 50 Hz.

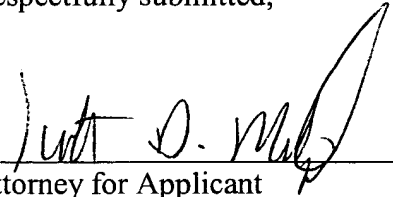
Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of modifying Nakamura in view of one or more of the secondary citations, such combinations still fail to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 20, 22, 23 and 33 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-19, 21, 24-32 and 34-41 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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